

5. (Once amended) ~~The absorbent article of claim 1~~ An absorbent article, comprising:  
an absorbent chassis defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back  
waist edges parallel to the transverse axis, opposite side edges extending between the front  
and back waist edges, a front waist region contiguous with the front waist edge, a back waist  
region contiguous with the back waist edge, and a crotch region which extends between and  
interconnects the front and back waist regions, the front waist region defining a pair of  
transversely opposed front side panels and a front center panel positioned between and  
interconnecting the front side panels, the back waist region defining a pair of transversely  
opposed back side panels and a back center panel positioned between and interconnecting  
the back side panels, at least one pair of side panels being elastomeric in a direction  
generally parallel to the transverse axis, the absorbent chassis comprising a bodyside liner,  
an outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed between  
the bodyside liner and the outer cover; and

a fastening system for releasably securing the absorbent article in a pant-like  
configuration, the fastening system comprising first and second fastening components  
disposed on the back side panels and adapted to releasably engage first and second mating  
fastening components disposed on the front side panels;

wherein a transverse distance between the first and second fastening components is  
substantially equal to a transverse distance between the first and second mating fastening  
components,

the absorbent article further comprising leg elastic members longitudinally aligned  
along each side edge in the crotch region, the leg elastic members having front terminal  
points located adjacent longitudinally innermost parts of the front side panels and back  
terminal points located adjacent longitudinally innermost parts of the back side panels.

8. (Once amended) ~~The absorbent article of claim 7~~ An absorbent article, comprising:  
an absorbent chassis defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back  
waist edges parallel to the transverse axis, opposite side edges extending between the front  
and back waist edges, a front waist region contiguous with the front waist edge, a back waist  
region contiguous with the back waist edge, and a crotch region which extends between and  
interconnects the front and back waist regions, the front waist region defining a pair of  
transversely opposed front side panels and a front center panel positioned between and  
interconnecting the front side panels, the back waist region defining a pair of transversely